GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3570
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2008
EFFECT OF CLIMATE CHANGE
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Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether unprecedented rains and floods in various parts of the country are due to climate change/global warming

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has commissioned any study on climate change/global warming and the damage caused/ effect on the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of areas in the country which are expected to face threat of global warming and climate change; and

(f) the details of action plan formulated by the Government to deal with the said problems?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES(SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a-b) No Sir.It is not possible to attribute occurrence of each and every event of heavy rains and floods to climate change and global warming. However, as per some recent studies carried out by Indian scientists, there has been a significant increasing trend observed in the frequency of heavy rainfall events over the west coast and central parts of India.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) There have been some studies made in the country which formed part of the first National Communication of India to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) regarding the vulnerability assessment and adaptation to climate change in various sectors such as water resources, agriculture, forests, natural eco-systems, coastal zones, health energy and infrastructure.

Further,the Expert Committee on Impact of Climate Change set-up by the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) in June 2007 assessed the impact of anthropogenic climate change on six sectors namely water resources, agriculture, Natural Eco-system, Health, Coastal Zone Management and Climate modeling. The status reports of these sectors have been prepared.

(e) The fourth assessment reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) brought out in 2007, provide information on global impacts of projected climate change on various regions of the world. With regard to Asia, the reports brought out the following major areas of climate change impact:

i. Glacier melt in the Himalayas is projected to increase.

ii. Freshwater availability in Central, South, East and Southeast Asia particularly in large river basins is projected to decrease.

iii. Coastal areas, especially heavily-populated mega-delta regions in South, East and Southeast Asia, are projected to be at greatest risk.

iv. It is projected that crop yields could increase up to 20% in East and Southeast Asia while it could decrease up to 30% in Central and South Asia by the mid-21st century.

(f) The National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) was released by the Prime Minister on 30th June 2008.The National Action plan outlines 8-Missions in specific areas of Solar Energy, Enhanced Energy Efficiency, Sustainable Habitat, Water, Sustaining the Himalayan Eco-system, Green India, Sustainable Agriculture and Strategic knowledge for Climate Change. These Eight National Missions form the core of the National Action Plan, representing multi-pronged, long term and integrated strategies for achieving key goals in the context of climate change.